

HISTORICAL DIRECTORY



Collected and Compiled by

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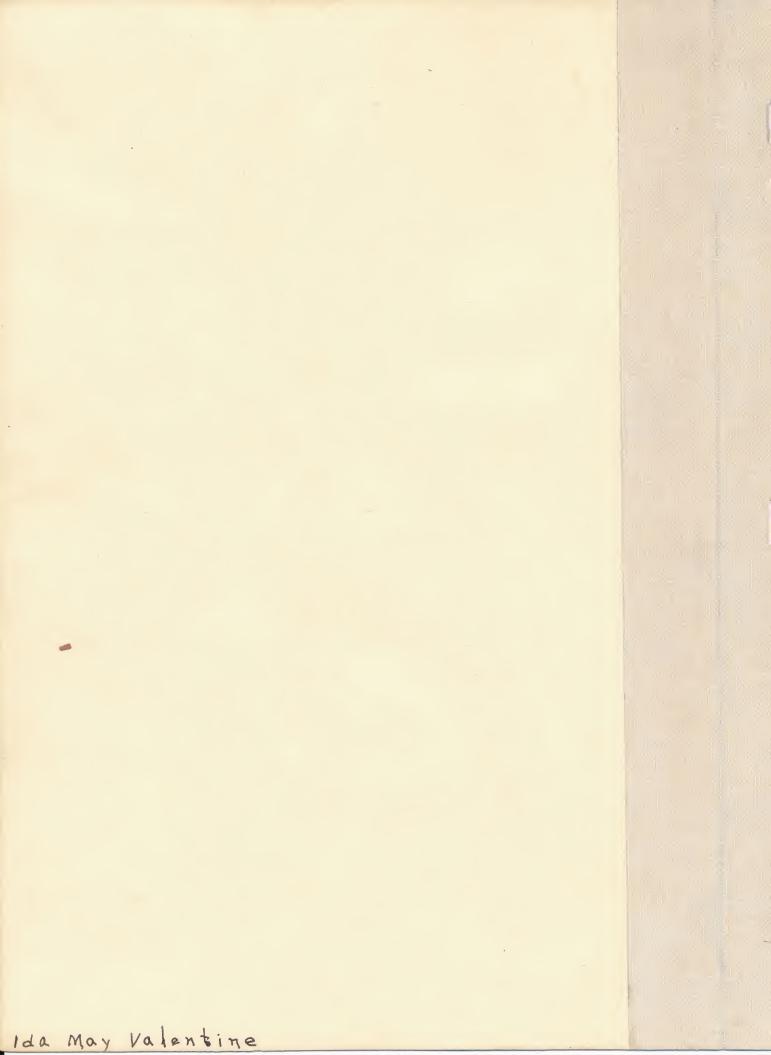


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IDA MAY VALENTINE

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Ida May Sincox was born at Enterprise, Pennsylvania, May 5, 1869, daughter of Marcia Jane Whaley and John Wiggins Sincox. The mother was born near Moravia, and Skaneateles Lake, New York, in 1850 and died at Chippewa Lake, Michigan, in the year 1933. The father was born at Enterprise, Pennsylvania, in 1845, and died at Chippewa Lake, Michigan, in 1906. Her ancestors were natives of the states of Pennsylvania and New York.

The parents of Ida May Sincox were pioneers in Mecosta County, Michigan, and Ida May was reared in the country where she was busy with school and home work. She enjoyed her books, was fond of horses and out-of-door sports.

Miss Ida attended Ferris Institute at Big Rapids,
Michigan, and graduated as a teacher. From 1886 to
1889 inclusive she taught school in Mecosta county.

Ida May Sincox married Derrick Willet Valentine
May 25, 1889, at Chippewa Lake, Michigan. Two
children came: Fern Angie and Bina Aline Valentine.

After her marriage Mrs. Valentine assisted her husband in the office of the Globe Pattern Works in

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Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Mrs. Valentine worked with the Methodist Episcopal Church in Muskegon Heights, Michigan; with the
Simpson Methodist Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo; and
with the First Church of Christ Scientist in Kalamazoo
She was also a member of The Eastern Star. Books,
horses and outdoor sports were her hobbies.

Death came to her December 20, 1934.

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MARJORIE ELLOYS VANAVERY 1924 - 1932

Marjorie Elloys VanAvery was born August 25, 1924, at Borgess Hospital. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Earl VanAvery. Mrs. VanAvery was Gladys Marie Todd before her marriage. A teacher in the public schools. Mr. VanAvery is a druggist, born in Middleville. Receiving his Pharmacy papers in Los Angles, California.

Marjorie Elloys was a very friendly child and knew many older folks at the First Baptist Church and at the Parkwood school where she attended until her death at the age of seven years. Being in the second grade. She was a very happy child, always singing and always sharing her playthings with others. Her greatest enjoyment was to be with her aunt (Miss Bessie Todd) at the First Baptist Church and greet people. So many knew her that at the time of her death the members of the church placed a lovely picture, "The Madonna of the Chair," in the primary room in memory of her.

She died January 28, 1932. She was operated on for appendicitus which was successful but diphtheria set in. She was ill four days.

ents. ė. • A private funeral service was held. Rev. Forest M. Ashbrook officiating. Burial in Riverside.





JOHN J. VANDEBERG 1875 - 1944

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John J. Vande Berg was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, April 5, 1875, and lived all his life in the city in which he was born.

In 1913, Mr. Vande Berg founded the Vande Berg Coal Company which was taken over and operated by his two sons, Jay H. Vande Berg and Hubert A. Vande Berg a few years ago when their father retired.

John J. Vande Berg was for a long time a member of the Third Christian Reformed Church and served for some time as a director of the Home for the Aged and was also a director of the First Federal Savings and Loan association.

Death came suddenly to Mr. Vande Berg while he was visiting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, December 27, 1944.

Funeral services were held at 2:30 P. M. the following Saturday at the Third Christian Reformed Church in Kalamazoo, the pastor, the Reverend Cornelius Oldenburg officiating. Burial was in Riverside cemetery.

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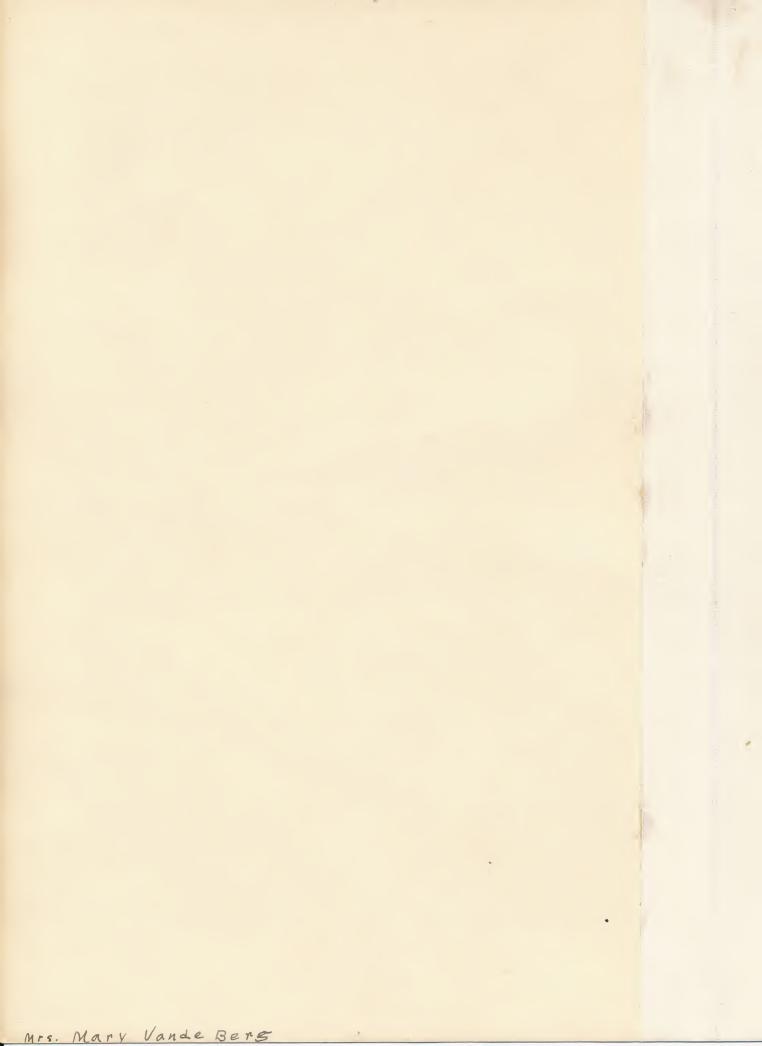
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M A R Y V A N D E B E R G 1877 - 1939

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Mary Vande Berg was born November 10, 1877, in the Netherlands and came to America with her parents, Herbert and Anna O'Reil, at the age of five and lived in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the remainder of her life.

March 20, 1894, she was married to John J. Vande Berg and they were the parents of Jay H., Hubert A., Donald and Carl, the last two dying in infancy.

She was a devout Christian and exemplified it in her daily life. She was always ready to do something for others and gave foremost attention to guiding her family in the proper way to live, to be noble in character, the embodiment of truth.

She was very active in the Second Reformed
Church, of which she was a member, and was always
ready to help in the Ladies Aid or Missionary Society.
Since the organization of the Home For The Aged, of
which her husband has been a director for the last
number of years, she had always been willing to
assist on committees to make life more pleasant for
those who had reached their advanced years and the

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 fine resolution from the Board of Directors and
Home Circle of the Home For The Aged which follows
is evidence of her service to humanity:

RESOLUTION

"Whereas, Mary Vande Berg, the beloved wife of John J. Vande Berg, one of our esteemed fellow Board Members of the KALAMAZOO HOME FOR THE AGED, has recently been called by the Heavenly Father unto her eternal reward; and

"Whereas, The Board of Trustees of the Home, the Ladies Home Circle and every resident of the Home fully realize, that in the passing of our beloved and gracious friend, we have indeed lost one who was a tireless worker in the Kingdom of our Heavenly Father, as pertained to the Kalamazoo Home For The Aged. We know this fact first hand and of our own full knowledge. She always obtained a great deal of genuine pleasure and satisfaction in all things she did for the Home, because she fully realized that she was laboring in the Master's vineyard and in furthering the Master's cause on earth.

"We appreciate that our words must be weak and vain as we make this resolution. She knew that religion belongs to every day, and in that spirit she devoted herself to the tasks that presented themselves, whether in her own home or in the doing of good deeds for others.

"She was a loving wife and a tender mother. She was unfaltering in her devotion and duty to the things that are truly Christ-like and eternal.

"We of the Kalamazoo Home For The Aged and of the Ladies Home Circle, feel that we have lost a true friend because of her zeal in always sponsoring and assisting in its cares and burdens in whatever capacity was assigned unto her. We sincerely mourn her loss.

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"We feel deeply grieved that a loving mother and wife has been called from the pursuits of this earthly pilgrimage. The family will be consoled in the thought that life was indeed full to her in all of its aspects, and that she leaned heavily upon the guiding arm of the Christ.

"Therefore, Be it resolved, that we, deeply saddened by her departure, in loving recognition of her memory, do cause that this resolution be spread at length upon the minutes of this Home, and that also a copy of this resolution be given to the husband and children of her family, to demonstrate our loving esteem for her.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE KALAMAZOO HOME FOR THE AGED.

By Ralph H. Kooi, Its President.

By Reint P. Schuur, Its Secretary.

Dated November 17, 1939.

Death came to Mrs. Vande Berg November 16, 1939.

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JOHN RINIER VAN DE LESTER 1913 - 1941

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John Rinier Van de Lester was born in Hammond,
Indiana, December 14, 1913, the son of John, who was
born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Clara Ahrens
Van de Lester, who was originally from Hobart,
Indiana. They were also the parents of Leona, born
September 7, 1916, married Raleigh Jacobs and they
became the parents of John Raleigh, born

, and reside at this time, 1944, in Hammond, Indiana; Mr. Jacobs is in Hawaii with the Anti-Aircraft armed forces.

Education

John R. Van de Lester, affectionately known as

Jack, attended the public schools of Hammond,

Indiana, and was graduated from the high school in

1931. During his high school days he was active in
the Boy Scouts and attained the rank of Eagle Scout.

He later served as scoutmaster for the troop at the
Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hammond.

He entered Purdue University in 1934 and was
graduated in 1938 with a reserve officer's

commission in the field artillery, having taken the

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The state of the particular property of the state of the

Mechanical Engineering course majoring in

Aeronautics. While in Purdue Jack belonged to
several honorary fraternities, was on the varsity
swimming squad two years and served as the captain
of the water polo team.

While a junior in Purdue University, on January 28, 1937, John Rinier Van de Lester was married to Evelyn Gee of Gary, Indiana, the daughter of David L. and Flossie Childress Gee, both of whom were born in Tennessee, and were also the parents of five sons and two other daughters.

Evelyn Gee received her education in the Gary public schools and after graduation from the Horace Mann High School she took the course in St. Mary's Mercy School of Nursing and became a Registered Nurse in 1936. While her husband was finishing his work in Purdue University she did private duty nursing.

Mrs. Van de Lester accompanied her husband to the Philippine Islands in 1939 and remained until the women and children were evacuated in May 1941.

While in Manila, Mr. and Mrs. Van de Lester's first child was born in Sternberg General Hospital, an Army Base Hospital, . They named her Samar, which is the name of one of the islands, meaning, "over the sea."

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Upon her arrival in the United States, Mrs.

Van de Lester made her home with her husband's

parents in Hammond, Indiana, and their second child,

Jaclyn Rae, who was born January 17, 1942, in Gary,

Indiana, where her mother had trained as a nurse,

in St. Mary's Mercy School of Nursing. She was

born more than three weeks after her father's death.

Later Mrs. Van de Lester decided to make her home

on the shores of Austin Lake, near Kalamazoo,

Michigan, where her husband's aunt, Mrs. Cora Wishey,

also resides.

Military Experience

John Rinier Van de Lester took military training in Purdue University in its crack Reserve Officers Training Corps artillery brigade, where he received much of the basic training that enabled him to transfer to artillery in the Philippines.

He was assigned to Randolph Field for further training and received his wings early in June, 1938. On June 27, 1938, he was sent to the Philippine Islands.

During his tenure with the air corps he was stationed at Nichols Field, Manilla, from July 1939 until May 1940, and received rating as an Observer and aerial gunner.

From Nichols Field he was assigned to a

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Bombardment Group and stationed at Clark Field, fifty miles north of Manila. He remained there for one year and was then transferred to Field Artillery, for which he had been trained at Purdue University. In April 1941, he received his commission as First Lieutenant. His last address was Cabanatuan, in Nueva Ecija province.

Lt. Van de Lester remained with the Field
Artillery until he was killed by the Japanese
December 25, 1941, United States date, December 24,
1941, Phillipine Islands date.

Personal Characteristics

Lt. Van de Lester was a commanding figure, standing six feet two and one-half inches tall, weighing one hundred eighty-five pounds with broad shoulders, fine physique and a splendid appearance. The color of his hair was sandy and when he was a boy he was nicknamed "Red." He had blue eyes and an infectious smile.

He liked people and was much beloved by all who knew him. The out-of-doors appealed to him and he was so fond of camping out in the field with the men that he asked to be transferred to the Field Artillery.

He was athletic and instituted water polo with the officers at both Nichols and Clark Fields.

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He also promoted other athletic activities. In the fall of 1941 his soft ball team won in the League in the Islands. He liked books and appreciated the mythm of music.

Lt. Van de Lester was a home loving boy and kept in constant touch with his wife after she returned to the United States. He wrote letters and sent cablegrams, the last of which was received by Mrs. Van de Lester December 21, 1941, and contained Christmas greetings and saying he was safe and well. This was four days before he was killed. Theirs was an unusually happy marriage, a union severed all too soon because of war.

Before attending Purdue University Lt. Van de - Lester was a member of Hammond Company C of the Marine Corps reserve.

Mrs. Van de Lester has received the Award of the Purple Heart, oldest award of the United States army, and presented posthumously to her husband.

When news of the death of Lt. Van de Lester reached his home city of Hammond, Indiana, the following is a copy of what appeared in the press of that city:

HERO

Lt. John R. Van de Lester of Hammond, one of the defenders of the Philippines, has been killed in action. He was the first commissioned officer from the Calumet region to die in

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defense of his country in the second World War.
This city is saddened by the news but proud
that one of its sons, a graduate of Hammond
high school, has conferred upon it such honor
and glory.

The noble service and sacrifice of Lt. John R. Van de Lester will be commemorated by patriotic societies, service clubs, schools and in the churches. The first organization of veterans of the war to be formed in this city should bear his name.

Just as his superior officer, Gen. MacArthur, has been honored by the park board of Hammond dedicating a Civic Center road "MacArthur drive" and the East Chicago council adopting a resolution to change Tod Park to "MacArthur Park," some school or street in this city should be given the name of J. R. Van de Lester.

We hope to see a tablet in his honor in the corridor of the high school he attended.

Our heartfelt sympathy is extended to the widow, children, parents and sister of the brave soldier.

The following is a copy of a letter received:

WAR DEPARTMENT Chief of the Army Air Forces Washington

March 24, 1942

My dear Mrs. Van de Lester:

It is with deep regret that I have learned of the death of your husband, First Lieutenant John Rinier Van de Lester, during an engagement December 24, 1941, in the Philippine Islands.

Lieutenant Van de Lester was not only a skillful pilot but also an expert combat observer and aerial gunner. Superb qualities of energy, devotion to duty, and loyalty to his command made him an outstanding officer of the Army Air Forces.

I trust that as time passes, you will rightfully gain solace in the proud realization that your husband died courageously as a gallant member of the Service.

My deepest sympathy to you and to other members of the family, and if there is

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anything we can do to assist, do not hesitate to call upon us.

Very sincerely,

H. H. Arnold

Lieutenant General U. S. A., Commanding General, Army Air Forces.

Mrs. John Rinier Van de Lester, 43 Doty Street, Hammond, Indiana. english on the course of senter, do not need to be to be only upon the

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NELLIE BLANCHE ROSE VANDE WALKER

1873 - 1937

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Nellie Blanche Rose was born in Toledo, Ohio, August 29, 1873, daughter of Maria Lane and Peter Rose of English descent.

While yet an infant she came with the family to Kalamazoo and lived here all her life. She was graduated from the Kalamazoo high school and worked for the Grace Corset Company for a number of years. Later, for some time, she was a milliner in the Mason Millinery store. She also clerked, at one time, in the toy department of the Wallace Drug store.

January 26, 1898, Nellie Blanche Rose married George Henry Vande Walker. She had two sisters and a brother: Florena, who married Robert Burns and resides in Oshtemo; Lulu, who married Harry Huntley and is deceased; and James, also deceased.

Mrs. Vande Walker was a member of the Lady
Maccabees and of the Pythian Sisters. She belonged
to St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church and at one
time she sang in the choir.

In political activity she was an independent

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and ardently supported Sheriff Struble. She enjoyed fishing to some extent and was interested in base ball, played the piano and was very fond of flowers, especially roses.

Mrs. Vande Walker made many friends and was very highly respected. Death came to her March 15, 1937. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend A. Gordon Fowkes and burial was in Riverside cemetery.

Written August 16, 1937

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Abraham M. Vandenberg



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ABRAHAM M VANDERBERG

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Abraham M. Vanderberg was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, October 4, 1870, son of Martin Vanderberg, who was born in the Netherlands, and Anna Verhage Vanderberg, who was born in the state of New York.

Abraham attended the Kalamazoo schools up to the eighth grade and then at the age of twelve years went to work for the Kalamazoo Paper Company, which was located where the Monarch Paper Mill now stands. He worked under S. A. Gibson until 1896, the first two years as a screen boy cleaning paper for three dollars per week, then for three years as second helper at five dollars per week on the super calender machine; the next seven years as first helper to the man who tends the paper machine and received ten dollars per week; he was then placed in charge of a paper machine and his compensation was three dollars per day for six years; about 1897 he went to work for the original Bryant Paper Company which had two machines for making paper, and continued with that company as machine operator until 1907 and received three dollars and twenty-five cents per

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A CONTRACTOR AND A STATE OF A STA DESCRIPTION OF THE PRESENCE AND SOME SECTIONS THE REAL PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY AND ADDRESS. paint 14 com country at a religible to the alternate Assertable body and a property of the party day; following the fire at the Superior Division of the Bryant Paper Company he became boss machine tender from 1907 until 1911 and was paid \$3.75 per day; he then became State Factory Inspector under Governor Chase S. Osborne for two years and on December 10, 1913, returned to the last job he had had with the Bryant Paper Company in the Superior Mill and remained in that position until November 1915 when he became superintendent of the Watab Pulp and Paper Company in Sartell, Minnesota, until the fall of 1916, with a salary of \$3600 per year; he was then placed in charge of the building of the paper mill for the paper division of the Riverview Coated Paper Company and was made superintendent until 1920 at a salary of \$3600 per year; he then became general superintendent of the paper and pulp mill for the Groveton Pulp and Paper Company in Groveton, New Hampshire, at a salary of \$6,500 plus bonus which reached as high as \$1600; in 1923, he became general superintendent of the Lincoln Paper Company in Elkhart, Indiana, at a salary of \$5,000 per year plus a bonus of stock in the company; in 1926, he returned to the superintendency of the Superior Division of the Bryant Paper Company at a salary of \$6,000 per year; one year later he was made general

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superintendent of the Bryant Division of the Bryant Paper Company at an increase of \$500 in salary; in 1929, he was made superintendent of the No. 2 Mill of the Kalamazoo Vegetable Parchment Company at a salary of \$6500 per year and remained there until 1932, when he accepted the position of general superintendent of the Nekoosa Pulp and Paper Company, Port Edward, Wisconsin, and had charge of two mills at a salary of \$10,000 per year for two years, when he planned to retire, but he was made superintendent and vice president of the Ward Paper Company, Merrill, Wisconsin, and spent 1937 and 1938 in that position. This venture did not turn out satisfactorily and Mr. Vanderberg withdrew and retired to the residence he had acquired at 1019 Egleston Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

December 10, 1891, he was married to Gertrude

Hycoop, who died October 15, 1908. They became the

parents of:

Anna Irene, who married (1) Willard Spurgeon, (2) C. W. Bierens and resides in Kalamazoo;

Leroy John, who married Mildred Doyle - he was killed in an auto accident in 1935;

Harold M., who married Helen Daniels and resides in Milwood;

Mildred Marie, who married Leo J. Beegen and

Principal of the original Division of the Department of the States; in the company of the states; in the company of the department of the states; in the control of the department of the states of the control of the c

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resides in Detroit, Michigan;

Howard Leslie, who married Lucile Conrad, and resides in Dayton, Ohio.

November 4, 1916, Mr. Vanderberg married

Mrs. Kittie Olmstead, who was born in Kalamazoo and attended school in this city, after which she accepted a position in the office of the King Paper Company.

In politics, Mr. Vanderberg is a Republican, and he and his wife attend the Bethany Reformed Church.

On his seventieth birth-day Mr. Vanderberg was given a surprise party by his family at the Colonial Tea Room on Gull Road and the following were present: Mrs. Mildred Beegen, Detroit, daughter; Robert Beegen grandson; Mrs. Abraham Vanderberg, his wife; Leo Beegen, Detroit, son-in-law; Miss Mildred June Vanderberg, granddaughter; Mrs. C. W. Bierens, daughter; Miss Mildred Spittler, guest; Mrs. Harold Vanderberg, daughter-in-law; Miss Patricia Vanderberg, granddaughter; Miss Jean Vanderberg, granddaughter; C. W. Bierens, son-in-law; Olin Vanderberg, grandson; Richard Vanderberg, grandson; Harold Vanderberg, son; Robert Vanderberg, grandson; Miss Betty Beegen, granddaughter; and Jack Vanderberg, grandson.

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Clarence W. Vander Brook and Boretha anna Vander Brook

CLARENCE W VANDER BROOK

mazoo, Michigan, on January 21, 1898. His paternal grandparents came from the Province of Zeeland in the Netherlands, and his father, William, was born on the Atlantic Ocean, on March 23, 1867. The grandparents settled in Sodus, New York, and moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in 1869. His mother was Nellie Corteway. His brothers are: William and Edward, deceased, and Nelson, Charles, and Robert all of Kalamazoo. His sisters are: Sadie and Edna, deceased, Katie of Kalamazoo, and Eunice, who is at home.

William Vander Brook passed away on July 27,1927
Clarence attended school in Kalamazoo and graduated from High School in 1916. He worked part time at the Madison Drug Company. After graduating from High School the young man worked in the Home Savings Bank, continuing there until his health failed.

He was greatly interested in radio and built a very fine one for himself. He was identified with the Kalamazoo Radio Club and at the time of his death was its Secretary-Treasurer. He enjoyed building, and in spare time was accustomed to work

· · The state of the s at that occupation around the home, building a garage, and doing repairing about the home place.

He was also a good sportsman, enjoying fishing and golf.

Clarence was a member of the Third Christian Reform Church and was earnest in his Christian devotion. He was a modest young man, beloved by his friends and his family. He was a victim of uremia, suffering for some time before his death which occurred February 26, 1936, at Kalamazoo, Michigan. Funeral services were read by The Reverend John Masselink, and interment was at Riverside.

"Is it as plainly in our living shown
By slant and twist which way the wind hath
blown?"

In the photograph he is seen with his niece Boretha Anna Vander Brook upon his knee.

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NELLIE CORTEWAY VANDER BROOK 1869 - 1938

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Nellie Corteway Vander Brook was born March 25, 1869, in the South Holland Island of Flakke, daughter of Sarah Admiral and Hubert Corteway of French and Holland descent. Nellie had two brothers, Leonard and Balten C. Corteway.

The young girl travelled extensively in Holland with her aunt until the age of fourteen when her removal to America took place. Her parents established their family in South Haven, Michigan, and the children were enrolled in school. After a year's residence there, the family moved to Kalamazoo where Nellie secured employment at the old Bryant Paper Mill until the time of her marriage.

On February 7, 1889, she became the bride of William Vander Brook, who was the son of Martha Fischer and Edward Vander Brook. He was born March 23, 1866, and was killed July 29, 1927, while working as engineer at the Kalamazoo Laundry. To this union were born ten children: Kathryn C., born July 14, 1891; Sarah L., born December 21, 1893, married Vernon Moyer, had one child, Derwood Calvin Moyer,

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died August 25, 1919; Eddie, born April 7, 1896, died April 27, 1896; Clarence William, born January 21, 1898, died February 25, 1936; Edna Marian, born July 1, 1900, died July 14, 1900; Nellson E., born March 4, 1903, married Arloween Wood, has one child, Doretha Ann Vander Brook, resides in Kalamazoo; Charles R., born June 16, 1904, died December 25, 1936, married Jacoba Eshuis, resides one-half mile west of Kalamazoo; William, born June 28, 1905, died August 28, 1905; Robert Lee, born August 11, 1907, resides in Kalamazoo; Eunice Esther, born March 23, 1910, resides in Kalamazoo.

Mrs. Vander Brook was devoted to her family and her church. She was a charter member of the Third Christian Reformed congregation. One of her favorite sayings was, "Do right and be righteous and all things will be added unto you."

She was very fond of flowers and grew a great variety of them.

Death came to Mrs. Vander Brook April 26, 1938.

The funeral was conducted by the Reverend John

Masselink of the Third Christian Reformed Church.

Interment was in Riverside Cemetery.

Written June 30, 1938.

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ALICE VANDER HORST

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Alice Germaine Vander Horst was born in Kalamazoo, May 3, 1903, daughter of Lizzie Cornelia Kreling and Henry Louis Vander Horst, residing at 106 Thompson street, Kalamazoo.

Miss Vander Horst was educated in the Kalamazoo schools and received her literary degree from the University of Michigan with the class of 1923. She was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority of the University of Michigan, and held the degree of Bachelor of Arts from the University. Before entering the University she had graduated from the Kalamazoo Central High school.

For a time Miss Alice served as visiting teacher in the schools at Paw Paw and was teaching in the Flint public schools at the time of her death, which occurred February 6, 1936, in Hurley Hospital, Flint. She was serving her second year as a teacher in Flint.

Miss Alice Vander Horst was survived by her father and mother and a sister, Mrs. Christel Vander Horst Berry, 1215 Howard Street, Kalamazoo.

The funeral was held in the home of the family Saturday afternoon, February 8, the Reverend John

lei . II Wirt Dunning, D. D., officiating.

Miss Vander Horst was active in the Kalamazoo Service Club of which she was a member and was also interested very much in the Civic Theater where she appeared in a number of productions.

"I cannot say and I will not say
That she is dead - she is just away!

With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand She has wandered into an unknown land,

And left us dreaming how very fair
It needs must be since she lingers there."

- James Whitcomb Riley



JOHN RICHARD VANDER ROEST 1919 - 1944

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Private First Class John Richard Vander Roest

A. S. N. 36195441, was reported missing in action
after the battle of Hurtgen Forest in Germany

December 1, 1944, and later his death was confirmed
as of that date.

He was a machine gunner in the Fourth Division, known as the Ivy Leaf Division, of the First Army under General Hodges. He also served in the Third Army under General Patton.

His unit received two Citations. On July 8, 1944, he was wounded in action at St. Lo and was hospitalized in Wales and received the Purple Heart Medal. He was sent back into combat in Belgium and on into Germany where he made the supreme sacrifice. A second Purple Heart Medal was awarded posthumously and was sent to his mother.

John's body was buried in the United States
Military Cemetery, Henri-Chapelle, Belgium, Plot KK,
Row 5, Grave 83, located seven miles southwest of
Aachen, Germany, five miles northwest of Eupen and
eight miles east of Liege in Belgium.

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Birth and Education

John Richard Vander Roest was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, November 26, 1919, son of Evert Vander Roest, who was born in The Netherlands August 24, 1890, and his wife, Cornelia J. Verhulst Vander Roest, who was also born in The Netherlands March 9, 1896.

Mr. and Mrs. Evert Vander Roest both migrated to Kalamazoo, Michigan, in their youth, in company with their parents, and were married in Kalamazoo and also became the parents of:

- Jean, born January 3, 1918, married Roy Colley and they became the parents of Charles Allen and Carole Lou and reside in Otsego, Michigan, at the time of this writing in 1946;
- Richard, Edward, born May 20, 1922, enlisted in the United States Navy and is still in service:
- James Robert, born November 22, 1924, served three years in the United States Army in World War II, was honorably discharged and resides with his parents at 131 Remine street, Kalamazoo, Michigan, where his parents have lived since their marriage; and

Elizabeth, who was born , and resides with her parents.

John attended the Parkwood School through the first six grades and then went to Washington Junior High School and was graduated from Central High School in 1938.

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John worked with his father, who was a plasterer, during summer vacations the years he was in school and after graduation put in full time.

He was inducted into the Army at Fort Custer in March 1942 and received his training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Camp Gordon, Georgia, and received amphibious training at Fort Gordon Johnston, Florida. He was also at Fort Dix, New Jersey. He was sent back to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and was sent overseas in January 1944.

Personal Characteristics

John was five feet eight inches tall, was well built and had light brown hair and blue eyes. He was fair skinned with a ruddy, healthy appearance.

Like most American boys, John was fond of the great American sport of base ball and played on neighborhood teams. He was interested in clean, wholesome sports. He liked to listen to Jimmy Durante on the radio.

He carefully chose his friends for their qualities of comradeship and bound them to him with the bonds of a common interest.

John was a quiet boy and spent much of his time at home where he enjoyed good times with his brothers and sisters.

He was carefully taught at home to be honest,

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to be kind, to be truthful and to be humble.

We salute you, John Richard Vander Roest, citizen of Kalamazoo and citizen of the Heavenly Kingdom. Your memory is cherished in the hearts of those who knew and loved you.

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H E N D R I K V A N H A A F T E N 1 8 6 9 - 1 9 3 8

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Hendrik Van Haaften was born March 12, 1869, son of Elizabeth Kreling and Cornelius Van Haaften, of Holland descent, who were among the early settlers in Kalamazoo. He was born in the homestead in Wall street and lived in that locality all of his life with the exception of about ten years.

At the age of nine years Hendrik went to work for Den Adel Brothers in the celery fields for one dollar a week, ten cents of which he had for himself and five cents of that he put in the bank. The second year he received one dollar and fifty cents a week.

When Hendrik was about fifteen years of age he went to work for the Kalamazoo Railway Supply Company making railway velocipedes. At about the age of sixteen he was employed in the foundry of Ed Clark and on September 20, 1915, he became a member of the Moulders Union.

The last fifteen years of his life Mr. Van Haaften was the proprietor of the Hill Gardens. Prior to that from 1909 to 1924, he was sales agent for the

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Dendrik Van Hoeften van bere bere 15, 1859,
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company of Buffalo, New York. He became very much interested in developing new varieties of the Oriental Poppies. For fifteen years he worked on a "White Perfection Poppy" and was so successful that the R. M. Kellogg Company will distribute them throughout the United States in the fall of 1938. About five thousand of them were distributed by this Three Rivers Company in 1937. The ideal sought was the most beautiful poppy in the world and one that could be guaranteed true to type - the startling success is, indeed, "Perfection". It took years of effort - devotion to an ideal - love of flowers, particularly poppies.

Hendrik Van Haaften married Hattie Countryman

August 9, 1888. She died in 1896 and the year before
on April 14, 1895, she was baptized by immersion in
the Bethel Baptist Church. They were the parents of:

Lena Leona, born August 10, 1890, married Glen White and resides in Kalamazoo;

William C., born August 8, 1892, married Ruth Potter and resides in Kalamazoo;

Niel D., born June 9, 1894, was with the Marines who were the first to land in France during the World War and was wounded in action, married Irene DeWater and resides in Galesburg, Michigan.

Mr. Van Haaften was married a second time in 1906 to Cora Taylor.

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William Co., occur august on 1970; survived

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Mr. You marking was markind a property line in

December 24, 1930, Mr. Van Haaften married Mrs. Pearl Parsons Chapman.

In politics Mr. Van Haaften was a Democrat.

He, at first, was a member of the First Reformed

Church, but after his second marriage he went with

his wife to the Bethel Baptist Church and later he

attended the First Church of Christ Scientist. He

was a sustaining member of the Holland Home for the

Aged.

Death came to Mr. Van Haaften January 14, 1938.

The funeral was conducted by the Reverend Edwin C.

Palmer and burial was in Riverside cemetery.

Written in January 1938.

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Mr. and Mrs. Martin Van Haaften



M A R T I N V A N H A A F T E N 1859 - 1938

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Martin Van Haaften was born in Kalamazoo,
April 11, 1859, son of Alice Den Adel and Ivan
Van Haaften, of Holland descent. He was reared in
Kalamazoo and attended the schools of the city.

At the age of seventeen he learned the trade of sheet metal worker with John De Visser, for whom he worked for five years. He then worked for Prindle and Larnard for an extended period after which he was with Edwards and Chamberlain for a number of years. From 1909 to 1911 he was with the Holland Furnace Company. For several years he worked for John Muelenberg and for some time he was in business for himself at the corner of Portage and Second streets, dealing in plumbing and heating. He retired from business about 1927.

Mr. Van Haaften made the first bottle filler for Dr. Uriah Upjohn and the first medicine tubs for the Upjohn Company. He invented the first revolving bread oven for Mr. Ives and he also made a cigar box packer. The box for the corner stone of the old court house and the box for the former build-

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the market and the second and the pasters are . U) - at 1 to 15, 15, 15 at a to 10 vol indian ment at . Fremy 1912 as Andrew H COMPANY OF THE CASE OF CASE OF THE CASE OF THE CASE the belief the set of the party bearing and A THE STATE OF THE WILLIAM STREET, ST. BOX SECTION SEC. TO

 ing of the First Presbyterian Church were both made by him. His name was imprinted on both these boxes which were of lead.

Mr. Van Haaften, for a time, belonged to the Firat Reformed Church. Later he became a member of the Second Reformed Church, following which he became an elder in the Park Street Gospel Tabernacle. His latest fellowship was with the Oakwood Undenominational Church. In politics he was a Republican and was very well read in political events, in which he was greatly interested. In his early days he was fond of fishing and hunting.

He had one sister, Mrs. Cornelia Prins, of
Norfolk, Virginia, and two brothers, Peter and Isaac
Van Haaften of Kalamazoo, ten grand children and
nine great-grandchildren.

December 30, 1879, he married Jennie Vande Laare and they were the parents of:

Sadie, who was born September 3, 1881, married Abraham Nason and resides in Kalamazoo;

Cornelia, born December 17, 1886, married John Johnson and resides in Kalamazoo;

Albert Cornelius, born January 14, 1890, married Ruth Phelps and resides in Kalamazoo;

Florence Eva, born January 14, 1898, married William T. Daam and resides in Kalamazoo.

Three children were deceased. Death came to Mr. Van Haaften February 2, 1938. The funeral was conducted by the Rev. Henry Kooi, burial, Riverside.

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ABRAM L VANHORN

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Abram L. VanHorn was born on a farm near Waterloo, Jackson county, Michigan, April 23, 1845, and grew to young manhood in that community.

Mr. VanHorn studied medicine in the office of Dr. M. H. Raymond in Grass Lake. Dr. Raymond was one of the state's most successful physicians and a number of outstanding physicians received inspiration to enter the medical profession from him. Later Mr. VanHorn entered the University of Michigan and graduated in medicine in the class of 1868.

For some years Dr. VanHorn enjoyed a successful practice in Mason, Michigan, and went from there to Dowling in Barry county, where he practiced until he moved to Otsego, Michigan, in 1892. While in Dowling his practice called him to all parts of the county and it was not unusual for him to keep from twelve to fifteen horses in his barn to convey him to and from his patients.

Dr. A. L. VanHorn was married to Lucy Augusta
Babbitt at Grass Lake November 27, 1867. Three
children came to them: Mrs. Maud Horner, Orlie and
Mrs. Mae Shand.

 A few years after Dr. VanHorn moved to Otsego death took away the son Orlie and his wife, Flora Martin, and left their two children Leonard and Carrie to be cared for and educated by Dr. and Mrs. VanHorn. The daughter Maud died March 6, 1931.

Death came to Dr. Abram Leonard VanHorn Tuesday evening, May 20, 1930. The funeral service was conducted by the Reverend James H. Bancroft, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which Dr. Van-Horn had served faithfully as an official member for many years.

Dr. VanHorn was also a member of the Knights of Pythias and a life member of the Masonic order.

Dr. VanHorn lived a busy and a happy life. He bore his burdens with cheerful fortitude. He was generous with his time and money. He spent himself in the service of others and was greatly beloved by the people of the communities where he lived and labored.

"Toiling, rejoicing, sorrowing,
Onward through life he goes;
Each morning sees some task begun,
Each evening sees it close;
Something attempted, something done,
Has earned a night's repose."

- Henry W. Longfellow

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LUCY BABBITT VANHORN

Lucy Augusta Babbitt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Levi Babbitt, was born October 31, 1848, at Grass Lake, Michigan.

Lucy Augusta Babbitt was married to Dr. Abram Leonard VanHorn November 27, 1867. She was the mother of three children: Maud, who married B. F. Horner; Orlie, who married Flora Martin; Mae, who married Dr. George Shand of Kalamazoo.

Mr. and Mrs. Orlie VanHorn both died a few years after Dr. and Mrs. VanHorn moved to Otsego in 1892 and Mrs. VanHorn took her son's children, Leonard and Carrie, and gave them her care and love. Carrie married Hugh McLeese and lives in Detroit, Michigan. Leonard is a practicing physician in Columbus, Ohio. Ten grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren cherish her memory.

Mrs. A. L. VanHorn took part in social activities where she lived and in Otsego was a member of the Ladies Literary club and the Four by Four club. She joined the church when a child of thirteen and was a loyal worker through the years. She had a wide acquaintance and hosts of friends.

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Death came to Mrs. VanHorn at 10:50 A. M.,

March 16, 1935. Funeral services were held in the

Methodist Episcopal Church, the pastor, Reverend

F. J. Schlueter, officiating. Burial was in

Mountain Home cemetery.

So long Thy power hath blest me, sure it still Will lead me on,
O'er moor and fen, o'er crag and torrent, till The night is gone,
And with the morn those angel faces smile,
Which I have loved long since, and lost awhile.

- John Henry Newman

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WALTER HENRY VAN HORN 1857 - 1937

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Walter Henry Van Horn was born in Carleton township, Barry County, December 30, 1857, son of Jane Chamberlain and Burt Van Horn, who was a veteran in the Civil War, died in the service and was buried in Arlington cemetery. His brothers were: William, deceased; Dwight, who resides in Prairieville, and Charles, who is deceased. His sisters were: Angeline, who married Alex McCallum and is deceased, and Ella, who married Lucian Gibbs and resides in Kalamazoo.

Walter H. Van Horn was reared in Barry and

Jackson counties. In 1878 he went from Barry

County, township of Hope, to Cheboygan to catch

pigeons, which had been selling well. But so many

had been caught the preceding summer the birds did

not return. The pigeons were caught with a net and

sold to high class hotels for food. Mr. Van Horn

then went to work in a lumber camp, loading logs on

trucks. Later he returned to Cheboygan and drove

a hack. After that he went to Hemphill's camp,

skidding logs. He wrote, "I there drove the supply

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team, which was the best job in the camp. I got top wages, \$26.00 a month and room and board."

In 1904, Mr. Van Horn was graduated from the Grand Rapids Veterinary College and devoted most of the remainder of his life to his profession, with the exception of a short time when he operated a barber shop.

December 24, 1886, Mr. Van Horn married Minnie Stone, daughter of Marian Townsend and Gilman Stone. Miss Stone was born near Charlotte, Michigan, and at the age of about twelve moved to a farm near Big Rapids, where her father cut a clearing in the forest and built a log house. On one occasion, she recalls that her brother shot a deer in the field with the cows.

One daughter came to bless the home, Hazel Maye, who is a teacher in the Kalamazoo schools. Dr. and Mrs. Van Horn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary December 24, 1936.

Dr. Van Horn had at one time belonged to the Masons. He was a stanch Republican and for awhile was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He was fond of hunting and fishing and enjoyed golf. He greatly enjoyed motoring and drove his car until he reached the age of seventy-eight. For the last

fifteen years of his life Dr. Van Horn conducted a small animal hospital. He was a fine citizen, kind and free-hearted and honest. He traced his ancestors back to William of Orange and was a credit to those who had gone before.

Death came to Dr. Van Horn January 5, 1937. The funeral was conducted by the Reverend T. T. Wylie and burial was in Mountain Home cemetery.

Written February 10, 1938.

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PETER VAN KRUININGEN 1865 - 1939

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Peter Van Kruiningen was born May 27, 1865, son of Antonia Van Beck and Dennis Van Kruiningen, in the Netherlands. At the age of six years he came with his parents to South Haven, Michigan, and stayed there about one year. The Indians used to visit that locality in those days and on one occasion a big black bear came to the door of the shanty where they lived. When the great Chicago fire occurred in 1871 the light of it was plainly visible across the lake in South Haven. Ox teams were much in evidence and snow would sometimes sift through the cracks of the building where they slept.

In 1872, the family moved to Kalamazoo and
Peter attended the Dutch school taught by Mr. Monningh. Later he attended the Lovell street school.
His first work was painting window frames for
Dewing and Son. His father was one of the first to
engage in raising celery and he introduced the icicle
radish and the beef steak tomato to the people of
Kalamazoo. Peter helped his father with the work.
The father died December 10, 1889, and the mother

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died August 19, 1912.

December 31, 1889, Peter Van Kruiningen was married to Agatha Pikkaart, who was born in Wemeldinge, Zeeland, the Netherlands, May 20, 1872, daughter of Jennie Mallekote and Mitchell Pikkaart. She had four sisters:

Cornelia, who married John Schipper, is a widow and resides in the Netherlands:

Mary, who married Joseph Ver Burg, is a widow and resides in the Netherlands;

Gertrude, who married Jacob De Mink and resides in Kalamazoo;

Jennie, who married Mr. Kievet and is deceased.

She also had two brothers, John and Daniel Pikkaart, both deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Van Kruiningen are the parents of:

Dennis, born July 15, 1891, married Fern Randall, has an adopted daughter, Colleen, resides in Schoolcraft, Michigan;

Mitchell, born July 3, 1892, married Mildred
Hollinger Badger, mother of Phyllis and
Bruce Badger, and of Dorothy, Barbara
and Mitchell Van Kruiningen, resides in
Vicksburg, Michigan;

Antonia, born August 9, 1894, married Jacob Johnson, resides at 1847 South Burdick street, Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Jennie, born September 17, 1895, married William Webber, is the mother of Donnabelle, Thomas, Patrilla and Patricia, resides in Kalamazoo;

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Nellie, born July 19, 1897, married Jacob Struben, is the mother of Thomas and Vincent, deceased, resides in Kalamazoo;

John, born September 1, 1898, died September 10, 1900;

Cornelia, born October 9, 1899, married
(1) Charles Matthies,
(2) Edward Kubeck, is the mother of
Dorothy, Wallace and William Matthies,
and Virginia and John Kubeck, and
resides in Kalamazoo;

Mary, born June 14, 1901, married Martin Mulder, is the mother of Allen and Joan, resides in Kalamazoo;

Gertrude, born September 20, 1902, married William Miller, resides in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Dennis Van Kruiningen was a soldier in the World War. He went overseas and fought in the St. Mihiel and Argonne offensives, was wounded and in the hospital when the armistice was signed. When he was discharged from the hospital he went by train to Germany and was there six months as one of the 25,000 soldiers of the picked regiment of the army of occupation under General John Pershing. They were all six feet or more in height and of about the same weight. They paraded with General Pershing in France, England and New York.

Mitchell Van Kruiningen was also a soldier in the World War and went overseas and fought in the St. Mihiel and Argonne offensives. He laid for a

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day and a night on the battlefield, had the "flu" and was taken to the hospital. He recovered and returned to service before the armistice was signed and marched to Germany, passed through a number of German towns and stayed longest at Coblenz and Anderhack. He, with three other American soldiers, was billeted in the home of a German lady who lost her husband and four sons in the war. She received them cordially, laundered and mended their clothing and when they were evacuated after seven months in Germany she accompanied them to the station and wept at the parting. The German people treated the American soldiers with many kindnesses and Mitchell was especially popular with the German children because he taught them to play base ball, a game in which he was proficient, especially as a pitcher. Before leaving Germany Mitchell secured a leave of absence and travelled through Switzerland and Germany.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Van Kruiningen began house-keeping on Reed street in Kalamazoo and after two years moved to 1847 South Burdick street to property which he inherited and resided there until his death. He moved back the old house and built the present one.

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For a time after his marriage Mr. Van Kruiningen bought and sold butter and eggs and later engaged in the wood and coal business. Then for fifteen years he worked as a washer foreman for the Bryant Paper Company and retired in March 1930.

He belonged to the Holland Mutual Aid Society and to the Holland American Society and at one time was a Modern Woodman. In politics he was a Republican. He attended the First Reformed Church at one time and later joined the First Protestant Reformed Church on South Burdick street. He took an enthusiastic interest in base ball and was fond of fishing and hunting and as a spectator enjoyed boxing. Boys of the neighborhood used his barn in which they installed a punching bag and winters they used the basement of his residence.

Due to the fact that Dennis and Mitchell were in the army, soldier boys from Camp Custer were often entertained in the Van Kruiningen home and many of them made it a sort of headquarters when in Kalama-zoo.

Death came to Mr. Van Kruiningen December 9, 1939. Had he lived until December 31, he and his wife would have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Reverend J. A. Veldman conducted the funeral service and burial was in Riverside cemetery.

Written in 1940

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1893 - 1936

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Henry Van Nus, Jr., was born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, February 15, 1893, son of Henry and Cornelia Wilhelmina De Young Van Nus, and attended school in Amsterdam through the grade school and then went to night school.

He came to Kalamazoo, Michigan, when he was eighteen years of age and worked first in the Monarch paper mill and then in the King paper mill. For a time he worked in the carpet department of Gilmore Brothers' store.

April 14, 1915, he was married to Lucy
Dekema, who was born in the Netherlands April 28,
1893. They became the parents of:

Henry III, who was born April 20, 1916, was graduated from the Kalamazoo high school in 1934, attended Western State Teachers College and conducts a store at Yorkville, Michigan;

Alida Anna, who was born September 5, 1917, was graduated from the Kalamazoo high school in 1936, married Edward Geering, is the mother of Lucy Ann, born , and resides at West Lake;

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Cornelia Wilhelmina, who was born July 16, 1919, was graduated from the Kalama-zoo high school in 1937, attended Maher's Business College and assists her brother in the store at Yorkville;

Frederick, who was born January 1, 1928; Leona Joy, who was born October 2, 1931; Marie Alberta, who was born

Mr. Henry Van Nus Jr., also worked for a time for the Spring and Axle company in Kalamazoo. In 1926, he began carrying mail in Kalamazoo and continued in that service until he passed away.

Politically, Mr. Van Nus was a Democrat.

He was a member of the Metropolitan Club and of the Association of Letter Carriers. He and his family belonged to St. Luke's Protestant Episcopal Church. He was a great reader and was fond of fishing. In personal appearance, he was about five feet and seven inches tall and weighed about one hundred seventy-five pounds and had black hair and blue eyes. He liked to have young people around and was a great hand to plan parties for the high school young folk.

Death came to Mr. Van Nus March 9, 1936.

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Thomas van Urse _

THOMAS VAN URK M D

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Thomas Van Urk was born in Steenwyk-Overysel,
November 11, 1873, son of Ipinia Jansonius and
Gerald Van Urk. He studied in the gymnasium in
Assen and in Amsterdam.

At a complimentary dinner given in his honor Dr. Van Urk read the following story of his life:

"Virtually every one likes to have his work appreciated and, regardless of modesty, nearly everyone is pleased by some visible reward in recognition of a task and I am no exception. When your secretary announced this dinner complimenting me I thought of a certain telephone girl in one of our state institutions. The story went like this - A very prominent man was visiting the institution and while inside was seeking to call up the superintendent. There was considerable delay in making the connection and he became peeved and said to the operator, 'See here, do you know who I am?'

The quick-witted operator replied, 'No sir, I don't know who you are but I know where you are.'

"For fear that you perhaps know very little about me, I thought of telling a few things which happened during my life. You know it is my privilege tonight to reminisce - when we get older we are said to live in the past. So I thought tonight it might not be amiss to tell a few incidents of my past life.

"I was born on the east side of what was once the Zuider See. My father at that time

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was an apothecary. The first fourteen years of my life were spent in this beautiful little city, which had about five thousand citizens. In the days of old it had been a fortified town. Hills were built around the city and around this was a canal - water you know is plentiful in Holland.

"The outstanding fact of my early days is that I was naughty and full of mischief. I will relate a few things we did to amuse ourselves. Friday nights we used to go to the Jewish synagogue where the Jews sat with blankets around their shoulders and hats on their heads. This is perhaps in commemoration of the readiness to leave the land of Egypt. We boys would saunter into the synagogue and take our hats off, knowing the Jews would object to this. We were invariably thrown out.

"On Saturday night we would sneak up to the Catholic church and put blacking into the holy water so that those who entered the next morning would have black spots on forehead and nose.

"It was the custom in this fair city to walk the streets in the evening just the same as people were in the habit of doing in Kalamazoo on Saturday night. Occasionally it was the duty of my brother and myself to deliver some While doing our errand, we would medicine. run through the streets and throw off the hats of these promenaders! And, looking back, we would see a dozen fellows picking up their hats from the street. We, however, would be far away from these wrathful citizens. On the whole, my life was pleasant, although I was severely punished by my father for any of the mischief I was caught doing. I was punished not only for my own sins but for those of my brother as well. I was the goat, if there had to be one.

"Looking back, however, I have great respect for my dear departed father and for the lessons he gave me. His punishments may have been the reason for my good behavior in later life.

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"It reminds me of the story of the Irish lady who was known for her pugnacious attitude. One day the priest, meeting her, said in the course of conversation: 'Mrs. O'Flaherty, I think your husband is the most saintly man I ever met.' Mrs. O'Flaherty replied: 'Why shouldn't he be? Haven't I knocked the hell out of him during the last ten years?'

"While I was doing these tricks, something happened which had a determining effect on my later life. My father, who was a prominent citizen, became converted and began to see he had a mission in life. This mission was to save sinners. He began in the immediate neighborhood and hunted up all the drunkards he could find. He invited them to the house and began to tell them of Jesus. And I must say his labors began to bear fruit. The known drunkards became upright citizens. He invited prominent evangelists to come to the city to hold revival meetings in the opera house, which he rented. He finally bought a store and transformed it into a hall. Here he held meetings. Coffee was served and cigars were distributed and, of course, the hall was crowded every night.

"This change had a stupendous effect on my life. My father sold his pharmacy and began an evangelistic career, interrupted in Amsterdam where he again became an apothecary. During these years, we were persecuted on account of our religion, which gave me an inferiority complex, which, to this day, I have not entirely conquered.

"My mother had two brothers in America. The reports from there were good. My father always had a longing to see America. The opportunity came when he had an offer for his pharmacy which far exceeded his anticipation. One night he said to mother, 'Mother, with the profits we can go to America and if we don't like it we can also return.'

"All the furniture was sold, including some priceless antiques which went for a song

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and we were ready to depart. This was in 1892, the year of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago.

"Tickets were bought - the steamer tickets were second class - and railroad tickets to Ackley, Iowa, where my uncle resided.

"The ocean voyage was uneventful with the exception of a severe storm which threatened the ship's safety.

"I remember my father kneeling in the smoking room joined by people of different nationalities. Here he prayed to the Lord, promising that if He would save us he would preach the Gospel in America.

"We were met at the dock by a Dutch Reformed minister, who had been notified by a friend my father was coming. He took us to a hotel in Hoboken where we dined before taking a train West that night. We were accompanied by a couple who were returning from a visit to Holland. They were from Muskegon, Michigan.

"The party now consisted of father, mother, four sons, including myself, and the Muskegon couple.

"Here we were in a strange land unable to speak the language and unfamiliar with the customs and usages.

"After our dinner in the hotel in Hoboken, where even the Negro porter spoke Dutch, we went to the depot in a street car, the Muskegon man doing the talking.

"We had always been somewhat suspicious of America as it was described to us as a land of humbug and full of swindlers. Alas, we were soon to see the truth of this statement. After father had paid for all our fares, the man from Muskegon handed the conductor a dollar bill. He kept on collecting the fares and when our friend demanded his change, the conductor said he had given it to him. My father's wrath was thoroughly

aroused. Being a man of action, he pulled the cord frantically, which brought the car to an immediate stop. We all got out and father began to talk to a policeman, demanding arrest of the conductor. This, of course, was all done in the Holland language. The policeman could not understand and would not budge. My father took his number and wrote it down.

"Now, you must remember that we all carried packages - eighteen in all, to be correct.

My oldest brother, being the wisest, was entrusted with a breadbox full of silverware - and this was genuine silver. We were now on the sidewalk and began counting the packages. There were only seventeen! The breadbox with the silverware had been left, during the excitement, on the street car!

"My father, always knowing what to do, posted himself and me near the track, waiting for the car to come back. He said he would certainly remember that motorman with whom he had the argument. Lo and behold! After waiting fifteen or twenty minutes, the car with the same motorman came into sight. I was told to jump into the front of the car. Father said he would jump in the back way.

"Being very alert, I soon spied the breadbox, grabbed it and jumped off on the other side of the car. I feel sure that if we had not had the fight about the fare, we should have been minus the silverware.

"My brother, who had graduated from a gymnasium and who had studied medicine a year at the University of Amsterdam, was supposed to know something about the English language but when the time came for him to speak it - it would not come out!

"This displeased my father very much for it seemed to him that the money he had spent on the son's education was evidently wasted. We were supposed to stop at Rochester, New York, where the girl to whom my brother was engaged to marry, resided. As punishment for

losing the silverware and for his inability to speak the English language, my father decided to go straight to Iowa.

"But. I must return to the sidewalk. recovering the silverware, we went on foot to the railroad station, which luckily was not far away. Here we were peacefully seated when a stranger stepped up to our friend from Muskegon and asked to see the tickets. looked at them and said that for twenty-five cents apiece he would guide us into a better and more comfortable car. After consulting with my father, it was decided to give him the money and he took us to the train and put us aboard the identical train we were supposed to take. Of course, this was not discovered until the stranger had disappear-These two instances of swindle increased the distrust my father had for Americans. The packages, therefore, were scrupulously watched day and night.

"The trip from New York to Chicago was uneventful. Nothing of importance is left in my memory - except, of course, that the couple from Muskegon left us, but I do not know exactly where.

"We arrived at Chicago one afternoon. Our tickets called for a ride from one station to another. The bus driver wanted to put our parcels on top of the bus but my father held on until finally the driver grabbed his satchel by main force and threw it on top. It was one of those busses which had a cord or rope from the back door to the driver's seat on top.

"We were finally seated in the bus, with my father on the lookout for trouble. Weren't we now in the midst of the crooked hemisphere, with the city of Chicago standing out in his mind as the most wicked. And, now something happened so suddenly that I myself was astonished at the results. The driver had arrived at the depot and the horses began to back up, which scared my father and he tried to get out. The door was closed - held firmly by the cord the driver on the upper seat was holding. My

father, getting frantic, lifted his right foot and with one scoop opened the door, resulting in the driver's downfall. Luckily, he did not seem to have been hurt - judging from the stream of words which flowed from his mouth. This, of course, fell on deaf ears as the language was not understood.

"We gathered our bundles and found eighteen correct! We went into the depot and deposited
our bundles on benches and placed my mother
on guard over them. I can still see my mother
sitting there - not a whimper from her, not a
complaint. She was willing to follow her husband and master to the end of the world!

"By this time our stomachs began to talk and father and the four sons started out to find food, which we did and we brought some to mother.

"As a matter of routine, we began to count our packages and - lo and behold! - instead of eighteen there was one more than we had previously counted. We counted again - there was no mistake - there were nineteen! Asking mother for an explanation, she said a man had stepped up and asked her to take care of a package for him. My father asked if the man talked Dutch. She said yes and that he was from Ackley, Iowa. The mystery of the extra package was not solved for a long time. We went into the train, taking the package along. By this time we were all tired and most of us fell asleep. In the middle of the night I woke and saw my father holding a revolver in his hand.

"Asking an explanation, he told me that every once in awhile some man would come through and make a grab for the extra package. But this package, being entrusted to us, would remain in our possession until the rightful owner should appear.

"I fell asleep again and my father must have done the same, because, when he again woke up, he told me to go to the other car, the smoker, and see what they were doing with the package. Peering through the door, I saw the package was being opened by some men. Each taking

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out a bottle, applied it to his lips and seemed to be enjoying the contents.

"The thought flashed through my mind that it was beer and I positively identified the bottles as containing that beverage.

"I reported what I had seen to my father and we did not find the explanation until morning, when we got off the train to stretch our legs. The owner was there and he could speak Dutch. A collection was taken up. All those who had participated in the drinking threw a coin into a hat and this was given to our Dutchman from Iowa. It was explained that the Dutchman had delivered a carload of hogs in Chicago. As Iowa was a dry state, he decided to take some beer home. Finding my mother was from Holland, he concluded she would innocently help him in his scheme to smuggle beer into dry territory. He evidently had talked too much in the smoking room and the beer was consumed before it reached Iowa. The joke was on my father but he took it good-naturedly and enjoyed it himself.

"We had had a very wet spring and the tracks of the Illinois were not in very good condition. The train went slower and slower and finally stopped. The engineer and fireman got out and shovelled dirt off the track. We proceeded a few miles and again mud stopped the train. This happened again and again. The passengers took a hand but by noon there was no use. The train came to a dead stop near a four-corners where there were just two stores and nothing else.

"We had had nothing to eat since the night before in Chicago. The passengers stormed the stores and bought every cracker and every bit of cheese - indeed, everything eatable. When we arrived at the stores every bit of food had been sold.

"My father wanted my older brother to exercise his English again and go to a farm house for something to eat, but he wouldn't. So father and I went to the farm house. We obtained

sandwiches and pies which we carried to the train and ate with great satisfaction.

"To make a long story short - we remained in this God-forsaken place twenty-four hours when another engine reached us and we went on. The train had no further trouble and we reached Freeport, a fairly large town, in mid-afternoon.

"We were again hungry. There was no dining car on the train. The train stopped an hour at Freeport and father went scouting for food. He returned with a bag full of something I had never before seen. He said, 'It's funny - with money in your pocket you can't get food. I went into a hotel and saw bread on the table and they would not sell any. I don't know what this is, but I saw people eating it. I bought a dollar's worth.'

"Later, we discovered the name of this article was popcorn. We ate until we could eat no more and to this day I am unable to look 'popcorn in the face.'

"Early next morning we reached Ackley, Iowa, and before going farther father said, 'We must have food.' He saw a hotel near the depot and, after depositing our eighteen packages, we went into the dining room. They brought us ham and eggs. They brought us toast and after all the eggs in the house were gone they brought fish and when the fish were gone we finished up with beefsteak.

"Here father's fear of being robbed vanished. He was at the end of his journey. We left the packages in the hotel and walked down town. When we passed the bank, the president came out and asked if we were the Van Urks, who were being expected there. When we replied in the affirmative, he asked us to step in, saying he would have his coachman and team take us to my uncle's farm.

"My uncle had come for us on three successive days and had left word with the banker to

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take us to the farm. An open buggy, with three seats, drawn by an excellent team of horses, was brought and we were taken through the muddy, clay roads toward the farm. The vehicle swayed so much from side to side that father got out and walked, the rest of us following. At the end of the trip mother was the only member of the party remaining in the buggy. You can imagine the welcome we received. Mother had not seen her brother in twenty-five years.

"In the evening we sat on the porch, father relating the story of our trip and other incidents. While we were peacefully sitting there, one of the neighbors appeared. He had heard that four husky boys had arrived from the Old Country and he needed hired help. I suggested that my older brother go but he said he intended to continue his studies in medicine in the fall, so I volunteered to go.

"I immediately picked up my belongings and went with my boss to his farm. The first night nothing happened as I slept the sleep of the just. At five-thirty, there was a rap on the door and I was told to get up and go to work. The farmer led me to the barn where there were eighteen cows to be milked. Why this number? EIGHTEEN was cropping up again! I couldn't understand. I counted again. Yes, there were EIGHTEEN. The farmer gave me a pail and a stool and told me to begin on one end of the row of cows and he would start on the other end.

"Gentlemen! Have you ever faced a cow for the first time? She may look ever so gentle, but if you have never milked one it becomes a grave problem. I squeezed but no milk came. I watched my boss - he seemed to get a full stream by doing the same thing. I tried again and again and pulled downward. I tried again and again but was only partially successful. In the meantime the cow became restless and I received a lash across the face from a none-too-clean tail. I quieted bossy as best I could but she didn't

understand Dutch and put one leg in the pail."

The farmer paid Van Urk one dollar per day for
the work and sent him back to his uncle's home.

"What you ought to do is to hire out for board and
room," he was told.

Van Urk followed this advice and worked in the harvest field and attended other duties. In one month, hard work caused him to lose forty pounds. He learned to milk and to do common farm work. While laboring, he said to himself, "If I am to be some one, I must study."

His father bought a house in the town and also a cow. Thomas was the only one who could milk her.

At the age of eighteen Thomas enrolled in the high school. One day a woman reported him for an infraction of the rules. He had intended no offense and when the principal said, "I'll have to lick you or otherwise you are expelled," he replied, "If you try to lick me, I'll throw you downstairs." He was told that he was dismissed unless he consulted the board of education.

"In this country they worship the female," said
Thomas's father, when told of the incident, "you're
not going to the board of education."

The senior Van Urk, declaring the knowledge of

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the English language was of the most importance, gave his son the task of making daily translations from the Bible.

There was no pastor in the local German church and the elder Van Urk conducted the service. During the winter he received from Grand Rapids, Michigan, a letter inquiring if he were the same Van Urk, who had conducted services in Steenwky, province of Overeysel, Holland, and, if so, if he would hold revival meetings in Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo.

"This was just what my father wanted," he said,

"and so he went there and held services. The little Dutch church in Kalamazoo was packed with worshipers and the elders asked if he would accept the pastorate and he consented. He was to receive no salary - only the collections. He returned to Iowa for his family, taking along a big bunch of celery which the family considered wonderfully good."

The family came to Kalamazoo in 1893 and Thomas matriculated as a sophomore that fall in Kalamazoo College. Just "to be busy" Thomas found a job in a drug store at Main and Edwards streets. For his work he received no pay. In college, he enrolled in five subjects and pursued them so efficiently that he was admitted the next fall in the medical school, University of Michigan. Four years later he received his degree. In his senior year, he was assistant to the professor of mind and nervous diseases.

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During his last year in college, Dr. Van Urk had his first experience in soldiering. When the war with Spain broke out, the students organized a battalion of infantry and began training. Van Urk was captain of the medical unit. Although the students drilled faithfully, they were not mustered into service.

Dr. Van Urk obtained employment as assistant physician in the hospital for the insane at Worcester, Massachusetts, beginning duty October 1, 1898, His parents, having returned in 1898 to the Netherlands, Dr. Van Urk visited them before beginning his duties.

"In the hospital for the insane, I was in a spooky room, all alone, in a building like a castle," says Dr. Van Urk.

The asylum was considered a model. Among those who came to inspect it was the late Dr. MacGregor, Kalamazoo state hospital. Dr. Van Urk entertained visitors to the institution, among whom were many noted physicians. In the meantime, he decided to start practicing for himself and chose Kalamazoo for his location.

Dr. Van Urk arrived in Kalamazoo October 19, 1899, registered at the Park-American hotel and began looking for an office. He finally selected rooms in a

building in East Main street, near Edwards, for which he paid ten dollars monthly. He bought some supplies at the Colman drug store and hung out his shingle. As economy was necessary, he slept on a cot in his office.

A street carnival was being held in Kalamazoo and President McKinley was expected. A huge crowd came to see the president and Dr. Van Urk opened his office that day. His first patient was a sight-seeing farmer and the doctor worked on him so effectively that the man was able to lift up his head and see the president go past in his carriage.

The doctor received seventy-five cents from his first patient. By night, he had taken in three dollars. Business then began coming in and continued to grow until the doctor became outstanding in his profession in Kalamazoo.

In New York City on June 10, 1900, Dr. Van Urk married Roslynd Blan. They have one son, J. Blan Van Urk, New York.

In addition to practicing his profession,

Dr. Van Urk has always been interested in affairs in
his community. In 1901, he served as an alderman
from the second ward. In clubs he has been very
active. He organized the Kalamazoo Knickerbocker

club and was its first president. He is a fellow of the American Medical Association and also belongs to the Kalamazoo Medical Association, the Michigan Medical Association and to the Association of Military Surgeons. He is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Dr. Van Urk, whose first military experience was in 1898, continued his interest. In 1922, he was commissioned a captain in the medical reserve. He had been on active duty a number of times and also served as contract surgeon with the Civilian Conservation Corps at Camp Custer. He was advanced to the grade of major and in January, 1935, became a lieutenant colonel. In November, Dr. Van Urk, on account of age limit, passed to the inactive reserve list.



JOHN J. VELTHOUSE 1924 - 1945

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John J. Velthouse was born in Ottawa county, Michigan, November 21, 1924, the son of John and Frances Smith Velthouse of Holland and Irish ancestry.

Mr. and Mrs. Velthouse were also the parents of:

Genevieve, born April 4, 1920, married Carl
Bixby and they became the parents of
Janet Anm, born
Carl Leo, born
Paul Byron, born
and they reside in Berrien Springs,
Michigan;

Mary, born , married Kenneth
Flynn, who was killed in the Armed
Services October 16, 1944, and they
became the parents of Kenneth
Francis and Mrs. Flynn lives with
her mother at the time of this
writing in 1945;

Frances Ruth, born September 16, 1926, and is a student at Western Michigan College of Education.

John J. attended the Alamo Avenue and Woodward Avenue Schools through the seventh grade and then the family moved to the country and he attended the Burke Acres School. Later he took work in the Lincoln Junior High School in Kalamazoo and in Central High School from which he was granted his

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graduation diploma in absentia in 1943, having enlisted in the Air Corps in the spring of that year, leaving Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 17, 1943.

Military Experience

John J. Velthouse was sent to Miami Beach,
Florida, for training in the Gunnery School and then
was transferred to Lowry Field, Denver, Colorado,
to be trained in the Bombardment School. He then
returned to Florida and engaged in actual flying
duty at Fort Myers, Following this he spent about
four months in the spring of 1944 at Barksdale Field,
Shreveport, Louisiana. Early in May 1944, he went
overseas, attached to the 391st Bomb Group of the
9th Air Force.

Overseas he was stationed in North Ireland where he received advanced training. Later he was based in England and participated in flying missions on a B-26 Liberator.

The 9th Air Force moved into France and was stationed near to Paris. On December 23, 1944, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. He also received the Oak Leaf Cluster and Bronze Medal. He had practically accomplished all his missions when he was wounded January 16, 1945, from which he died January 19, 1945.

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The following is the official record with which the Distinguished Flying Cross was bestowed:

JOHN J. VELTHOUSE, 36464278, Staff Sergeant, Air Corps, 391st bombardment Group (M). For extraordinary achievement in aerial flight against the enemy on 23 December 1944. While participating in a mission against heavily defended installations in Western Germany, S Sgt VELTHOUSE was serving as Amorer-gunner of a B-26 type aircraft. At the target area the formation was suddenly attacked by waves of FW 190's and ME 109's and S Sgt VELTHOUSE immediately swung his guns, concentrating the fire therefrom on the menacing fighters. Because of poor visibility the primary objective was not bombed but the aircraft continued in formation to a secondary objective, and although still under constant attack from enemy aircraft, S Sgt VELTHOUSE, by his remarkable gunnery, was instrumental in driving off the enemy attacks and was in large measure responsible for the safe return of his aircraft and crew. The outstanding airmanship and devotion to duty exhibited by S Sgt VELTHOUSE on this occasion were in keeping with the highest traditions of the Army Air Forces.

The following is a copy of a letter from his commanding officer:

HEADQUARTERS
9TH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION (M)

APO 140, U. S. Army 26 January 1945

Mrs. Frances Stone 630 Woodbury Street Kalamazoo, Michigan

Dear Mrs. Stone:

I deeply regret that your son, Staff Sergeant John J. Velthouse, 36464278, died in a General Hospital on 19 January 1945 of injuries received in action on the operation of 16 January 1945. He was buried in an American military cemetery in France, with

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religious services and full military honors.

Please accept my sincere sympathy. John was a splendid armorer and gunner, highly respected by the members of his crew and all those who knew him. His loss is deeply felt by his comrades. His devotion to duty and to our country was unswerving and merited the highest praise.

Again, please accept my deepest sympathy.

Sincerely yours,

SAMUEL E. ANDERSON Major General, USA, Commanding

Personal Characteristics

John J. Velthouse was five feet eight and one-half inches tall, of slender build with broad shoulders and a good bearing. He had blonde curly hair, blue eyes, a fair complexion, with a sunny smile and a happy disposition. He was easy to meet and like and made many friends.

He made good grades in school and especially enjoyed manual training and mathematics. He had planned to go on to college. He was adept at golf and was assistant pro at Maple Hills. He liked out door life and in the winters he enjoyed bowling.

John attended the nearest Church and as a lad attended Sunday school. He was carefully trained

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by his mother in all good things. He was a fine example of splendid manhood. He was cut down in his youth but he lived to high purpose. He gave his life that freedom might live and that there might come the day when there shall be peace on earth among men of good will.

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JOHN A VERHAGE 1888 - 1940

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John A. Verhage, son of Martin and Gertrude

Verhage, was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on July

31, 1888. He attended the Kalamazoo Public Schools,
including the Central High School, from which he

was graduated in 1907. The following year was
spent as a student in Parson's Business College.

During 1908, Mr. Verhage was employed by the Kalamazoo branch of the National Biscuit Company. One year later he left the employ of this company to accept a position in the office of Lee and Cady Company, a connection which was to continue until a short time before his death.

September 14, 1912, Mr. Verhage was married to Margaret T. Davis, born September 30, 1886, daughter of Martin and Mary Farrell Davis. She was born in Joliet, Illinois, and attended the public schools there until she reached the age of ten, when the family moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she was graduated from the high school. August 26, 1913, their son Martin Davis was born. He was graduated from high school in Grand Rapids, Michigan, received

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the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Doctor of Medicine from Northwestern University, married Sigried Christiansen May 20, 1931, and is practicing medicine in Niles, Michigan.

Because of poor health, Mr. Verhage resigned from his position in the Sales Department of Lee and Cady Company to which he had been transferred some time previously and established his residence in Miami, Florida, in 1925. About one year later he returned to Kalamazoo and to the employ of the Lee and Cady Company, in the capacity of buyer. Within one year he was transferred to the Grand Rapids branch of that company in the same capacity. In 1927 he was made Assistant Manager of that branch.

Six years later Mr. Verhage again returned to Kalamazoo as Manager of the branch in which he had begun his association with the company twenty-four years earlier and he served in this capacity until forced to resign because of illness in 1939. After spending three months in Miami, Florida, and failing to recover from his long illness, he died in Kalamazoo on April 3, 1940. The funeral was conducted under the auspices of the Masonic order and burial was in Riverside cemetery.

At various times Mr. Verhage was a member of

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the United Commercial Travelers, Anchor Lodge No. 87, F. and A. M., B. P. O. E. No. 50, Modern Woodmen of America, and the Kalamazoo Chamber of Commerce.

In personal appearance Mr. Verhage was five feet ten inches in height, weighed one hundred ninety pounds, had light hair and blue eyes. He was interested in sports and played both foot ball and base ball while in Parsons Business College. He also enjoyed fishing. He made many friends, was very generous and always helping in good causes.

His father was very well known as were his brothers and sisters who were:

Levinus and Martin, who reside in Kalamazoo; Abraham, deceased;

Nell, who married John Cherry and resides in Kalamazoo;

Gertrude, who married George Stratton and resides in Coloma, Michigan;

Cora, who married Joseph de Vest and resides in Three Rivers, Michigan;

Lena, who married Ethel Weygant;

Anna, who married Thomas Cardine and resides in Detroit, Michigan;

Martha, who married George Schell and is deceased;

Josephine, who married Paul Keil and is deceased.

Written in 1940.

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EDWARD FREDERICK VER MEULEN 1924 - 1944

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Private First Class Edward Frederick Ver Meulen was killed in action near Mont Lemar, France, September 10, 1944.

He was drafted February 22, 1943, and was inducted into the United States Army at Camp Grant, Illinois, March 1, 1943. He received his basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama, and was then sent to Shenango, Pennsylvania, and from there to New York and overseas August 24, 1943.

He saw action in North Africa, Italy and France.

He received shell fragment wounds in the right arm,

abdomen and left leg and returned to duty as soon as

he recovered only to be wounded a second time about

May 23, 1944. He was posthumously awarded Bronze

Stars. His serial number was 36453889.

The last letter his parents received from Edward was dated August 31, 1944.

Birth and Education

Edward was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan,
November 7, 1924, son of Jacob Ver Meulen, who was
born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, December 27, 1893, and

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his wife, Minnie C. Betke Ver Meulen, who was born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, September 19, 1898. Both parents were of Holland ancestry.

Mr. and Mrs Jacob Ver Meulen also became the parents of:

James Cornelius, born in Kalamazoo, Michigan,
August 24, 1920, was a radio technician
in the United States Navy from 1942 to
1945, was in two major engagements, at
Tarawa and Palau, married Marie Peters
and they reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan;

Charles Franklin, born in Kalamazoo, Michigan,
November 12, 1925, served three years,
three months and ten days in the United
States Navy and was a Seaman First Class,
and was stationed on Guam; he was in
training with V12 at Western Michigan
College of Education; and

Gerald Allen, born in Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 27, 1930, resides with his parents.

Edward began his education at the Vine Street School and completed the work of the ninth grade when he entered Central High School in 1940 and remained until his senior year, when he left for army service.

Personal Characteristics

He was about six feet tall, slender in build, and had blonde hair, blue eyes and a fair complexion.

He was a member of the Vine Street Junior High School football team and played basket ball with the First Reformed Church team.

He played sand lot baseball and because he

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liked horses and was a good horseman he spent much time at the stables known in Kalamazoo as "Peter the Great."

Edward appreciated music, especially on the radio. He made model airplanes and enjoyed seeing the games at school, especially football.

He was an honorable lad and followed the teachings of the First Reformed Church and Sunday school of which he was a baptized member, which, with the teachings and examples of his parents, produced one of Kalamazoo's finest young men.

Edward Ver Meulen made himself a part of a group by his friendly, courteous manners and kindly ways.

E. C. Gault, Colonel, AGO, Chief of Branch, wrote:

"His character was recorded as excellent and his efficiency rating as a soldier was described as superior."

Edgar H. Poinsett, Captain 7th Infantry, Commanding, wrote:

"Private First Class Ver Meulen has always exhibited fine leadership and personal courage. He is liked and respected by all other members of the company. During these trying days we need men of his calibre and it is a pleasure to acknowledge the splendid work he has done."

The following is an excerpt from one of Edward's letters:

"I was glad to hear that you received my Purple

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Heart OK, but that isn't very important to me as the BRONZE STAR is. That's a new metal, more or less only they haven't enough of the metal to go around, and while I am on that subject I might as well tell you what it's for since you asked about it. It's for 'action above and beyond the line of duty.'"

Edward Frederick Ver Meulen sleeps today in the solitude of a distant land, but he lives as a precious and abiding memory in the hearts of his family and his friends. THE RESIDENCE OF THE PARTY OF T

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F R A N K V E R M E U L E N 1871 - 1936

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Frank Vermeulen was born March 2, 1871, in the Netherlands, in the small town of Wisskerke, Southern Holland, in the Province of Zeeland. He came to America with his father and mother in 1887 and settled in Kalamazoo.

Before he began his career in retail furniture
lines, Mr. Vermeulen was a coachman for several years
for Mr. William Wood, an important banker in Kalamazoo.
In 1895, he began as driver and warehouse man for
Sunstein and Blumberg then located on East Main
Street. Five years later this firm moved to a new
location on North Burdick Street and has since been
known as the People's Outfitting Company. On March
26, 1898, while employed with this firm, he married
Delia Spitsbergen, age 27, of Zeeland, Michigan.

Mr. Vermeulen remained with the People's Outfitting Company until 1906, at which time he and
Mr. Soloman started a new furniture store, The Home
Furnishing Company, next door to the People's Outfitting Company. Following the death of Mr. Solomon
in 1917, Mr. Vermeulen was made manager and held this

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position until 1929, at which time he became affiliated with his two sons, Harold and Leslie, who started the Vermeulen Furniture Company in 1924, located at Rose and Water Streets. He remained with his sons in an active capacity until his death.

His hobbies were his work, his home, his winter sojourns in Orlando, Florida, and a great interest in early American History. Mr. Vermeulen's most important outside interests were his church and the Home for the Aged. He joined the First Reformed Church at the age of twenty and was so active in the work that he was made a Deacon at the age of twenty-seven, an unprecedented event in the history of the Church. He also taught a Sunday School class of young men for many years. In 1918, he and his family changed over to the Second Reformed Church and he continued his activities as Deacon for many years.

Mr. Vermeulen was an active member of the board of the Home for the Aged since it's founding and one of it's original founders. He was interested in the work of the Home and assisted in it's every detail until his death.

Mr. Vermeulen was survived by his wife, Delia, his two daughters, Henrietta and Geraldine, and his three sons, Harold, Leslie and Franklin, two brothers, Peter and Cornelius, and a sister, Jennie. He died

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at Bronson Hospital early Saturday morning, August 8, 1936, following an operation and a short illness. Burial took place in Riverside Cemetery, Monday, August 10, the Reverend James J. Burggraaf, of the Second Reformed Church, and the Reverend J. Van Peurson, of the First Reformed Church of Holland, formerly of Kalamazoo, officiated.

Written October 30, 1936.

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